PREFACE

The basic mission of the Joint Fire Science Program is to provide the scientific basis and rationale for implementing fuels management activities, with emphasis on the development and application of information for resource managers. The Joint Fire Science Program Governing Board recognized the urgent need to understand the role of wildland fire in nonnative plant invasions as well as the role of nonnative plants in altering fire behavior in ecosystems. The Board also recognized the need to better understand the appropriate use of fire as a tool for managing and restoring areas threatened by invasion.

To begin to address this need, the Board developed a white paper that identified a range of resource manager information needs and scientific perspectives on fire management practices related to control and susceptibility of invasive plants. A key recommendation was to conduct a national fire and invasives workshop. The opportunity arose to hold this workshop in conjunction with Fire Conference 2000 as a special session and thus provide a national forum for this important topic.

The purpose of the Fire and Invasive Species workshop was to assess the state of knowledge of the interactions of fire and invasive plants, including fire management practices related to control and susceptibility, influence of invasive species on fire regimes, influence of fire on invasive species, and influence of land use and land management practices on invasive species and fire. A further purpose was to identify management information needs and related research needs and priorities, and to raise national awareness of fire invasive species issues. Although the issue of fire and invasive plants is often viewed as a problem predominantly in the western states, the workshop attempts to provide a national perspective of fire and invasive plants in the United States. The workshop proceedings are organized according to major eco-regions represented in the U.S.: *Desert and Semi-Desert, Temperate Grasslands, Mediterranean Climates, Temperate and Boreal Coniferous Forests, Temperate Deciduous Forests,* and *Tropical and Subtropical Environments.*

My special thanks to session co-chairman Matthew Brooks, the authors, and to Tyrone Wilson for his diligent and sustained efforts to bring this proceedings document to fruition.

Stanley G. Coloff
U.S. Geological Survey
Reston, Virginia
December 2001